as coal, nuclear and renewable energy including solar, wind, biomass, micro-hydro and biological routes.

Hydrogen energy would be mainly used for transport and power generation applications. The Road Map has projected-that one million hydrogen fueled vehicles will be on Indian Roads and 1000 MW hydrogen based aggregate power generation capacity will be set up in the country, by 2020.

Vote against Iran on Nuclear issue

*83. SHRIAMAR SINGH:
SHRIABUASIMAZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the U.S. Ambassador to India to the effect that if India did not vote against Iran on nuclear issue at the International Atomic Energy Agency, the fall out on July 18, 2005 deal would be devastating and the initiative would die; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government's attention was drawn to an interview given by US Ambassador David Mulford on January 25, 2006 in which he said that if India decided not to vote with US and EU 3 on the Iran nuclear issue, its effect on the civil nuclear cooperation initiative would be "devastating" and that the US Congress would "simply stop considering the matter".

The Government responded on January 25 itself by issuing a statement that India's position on the Iran nuclear issue at the IAEA will be based on India's own independent judgement and national interests. The Government categorically rejected any attempt to link this to the proposed India-US agreement on civil nuclear energy cooperation, which stood on its own merits. Foreign Secretary called in the US Ambassador on January 26, 2006 to convey to him that the remarks made by him "were inappropriate and not conducive to building a strong partnership between OUT two independent democracies". Foreign Secretary informed the US Ambassador that India's vote on any possible resolution on the Iran nuclear issue at the IAEA would be determined by India's own

judgement of the merits of the case. Concerning the proposed India-US civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement, the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed India's stand that both countries needed to work in the spirit of the 18 July, 2005 Joint Statement and in strict conformity with the reciprocal commitments contained therein. The Ambassador expressed his sincere regrets, saying that his remarks had been taken out of context, and that it was not his intention at all to question India's right to take decisions on the basis of its own national interests.

Award of Bhartiya Samman

*84. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were protests against the award of Bhartiya Samman to certain awardees on the occasion of last Pravasi Bhartiya Meet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, in respect of one Pravasi Bhartiya Samman awardee.

(b) A few oversea Indians in the audience had protested against conferring of the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award, 2006 on Dr. Sudhir Parikh.

(c) Dr. Sudhir Parikh had been approved for the Award keeping in view his contribution to the Indian-American community, championing US-India relations and philanthropy.

Increase of land rates for institutions

*85. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to raise the land rates for institutions in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?